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Maintaining Campus Civility

Office of the Chancellor

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Office of the Chancellor



I have said many times that our university exists to serve our students. I value each of you and it's my job, along with other administrators, faculty, and staff, to make sure our students have the best possible learning experience. Whether it's in the classroom, in a residence hall, during outside activities, or at sporting events, respect for each other is one of our core values.

Recent events on our campus that involve hate speech, bullying, sexual assaults, homophobia, and racism are very troubling to me. I am also disturbed by the anonymous posts on Yik Yak. I remain committed to a civil culture on our campus, and I am asking for a renewed commitment to civility.

We should be able to disagree without creating a hostile environment. We must respect and value each other and differing opinions. Anonymity does not give anyone permission to bully or make hateful comments.

If I could have one wish during this season, it would be that we stand up for each other and denounce behavior that intentionally demeans or harms. Please join me in our continued commitment to make the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, a campus that's welcoming to all and hostile to none.

Thank you,

Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor

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